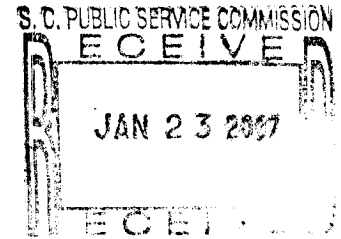


South Carolina Public Service Commission  
P.O. Box 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211  
Attention Charles Terreni

COPY  
Posted: D. Duke  
Dept: SA 015  
Date: 1-24-07  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_



Re: SC Public Service Commission Docket 2005-385-E  
Order No. 2006-680

Date: January 20, 2007

I am writing this letter as Chair of the Bartram Group of the Sierra Club. The Bartram Group has over 900 members in Upstate South Carolina. On January 10, 2007, the Executive Committee of the Bartram Group endorsed Net Metering. We are in support of:

True net metering that allows a single electrical meter to spin forward or backwards for:

- solar and wind generated electric installations;
- for residential and commercial consumers; and
- without complicated or cumbersome interconnection procedures, equipment, and fees.

Net metering for solar and wind installations is:

1. **Safe:** Today's solar and wind technologies and inverters comply with IEEE and IREC standards and are safe:
  - a. there is no backflow when the public grid goes down; and
  - b. there is no fire or electric shock hazard.
2. **High quality:** Today's solar and wind technologies generate electricity with a true sine wave that does not compromise the quality of electricity on the grid.
3. **More efficient than the conventional grid system:** 1kwh generated on-site delivers 1 kwh on-site, whereas it takes approximately 3 kwh's off-site to deliver 1 kwh on-site due to voltage losses over long transmission lines.

Solar and wind technologies **benefit the South Carolina economy and quality of life** because they:

1. Reduce consumers' utility bills and encourage energy conservation;
2. Keep our money here in South Carolina – it is not sent to out-of-state companies and foreign countries;
3. Generate jobs here for solar and wind installers – small businesses comprise 80% of all jobs;

4. Reduce air pollution and global warming that would otherwise be injurious to citizens' health and limit business growth under EPA non-attainment standards; and
5. Reduce the consumers' costs of solar and wind installations by eliminating the need for expensive and potentially hazardous battery systems.

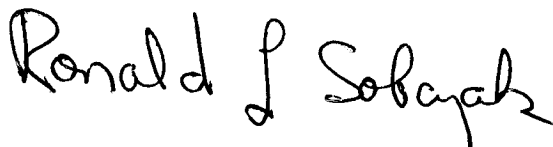
Please allow for true net metering with the meter spinning backwards, even at retail rates. It keeps the program simple, and power companies do not lose money, because:

1. Solar generates electricity during times of peak demand when power companies have to pay top dollar, sometimes greater than retail, for electricity;
2. Solar reduces overall peak demand, so there is less strain on the system;
3. By reducing overall peak demand, it slows the need to build more expensive power plants; and
4. There is no increased administrative cost to the utility – they are just reading the meter as they would any other, and they have/could have a minimum line charge for all accounts of every kind.

Reconciliation of Net Excess Generation (NEG) should be made at the end of the year and not sooner – it is a fair and simple reconciliation. Any remaining NEG could be credited to recognized non-profit charities or to low-income programs.

South Carolina has one of the best environments in the country for solar electric generation since we enjoy over 225 solar days per year.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald L. Sobczak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ronald L. Sobczak  
Chair, Bartram Group, Sierra Club